

COBRA

Time Drive

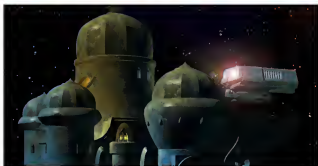
THE SPACE PIRATE

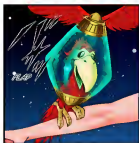
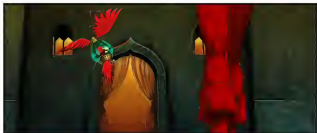


BUICHI TERASAWA

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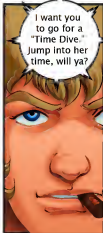
My name is
Scheherazade,
the teller
of dreams.





This isn't just
some disease.
There must be
another cause.

My partner's
body... her very
existence is
becoming
hollow.



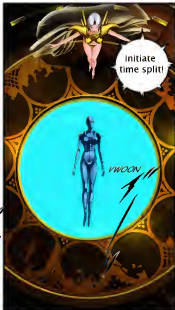
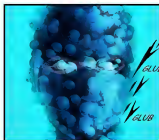
I want you
to go for a
"Time Dive."
Jump into her
time, will ya?

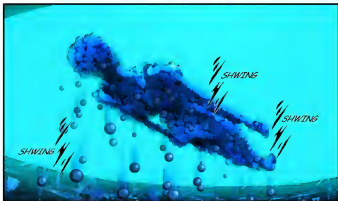


That's it!
I want to stop
what's causing
this before
she vanishes
completely.



You
mean to say
she has entered
a "distortion
in time"...







Nah,
I'm goin'
with you.

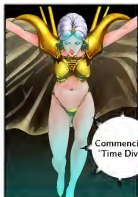


I'm going to
dive into her
"moments."
Please wait.



It requires
diving into
the person's
actual
"moment."

It's too
dangerous.
A "Time Dive"
is different from
entering
memories.



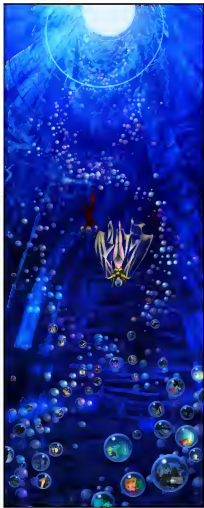
Commencing
"Time Dive"!



If I drown,
will you perform
mouth-to-mouth
on me?



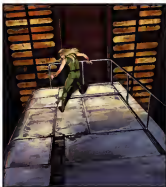
At times,
people become
incapable of
handling the
time pressure,
dying as a
result.

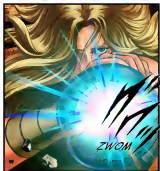




What's
all this...!?

This is the past.
Here we find
every individual
"moment" that
she experienced
in her lifetime.







This was
on Saturn
...



That must have
been an intense
"moment"... those
emit a blue
light.



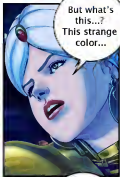
Man,
I was sure
I was a goner
then.



"Moments" have colors. Sorrowful "Moments" are red... Joyful "moments" glow gold.



It's sad, yet I see a glimmer of hope. What could this purple "moment" be...!?



But what's this...? This strange color...



That's Lady... when she still had a human body...!



I see a beautiful woman... Who is this...?



Yes...
They chronicle
the lives of
people they
encounter
here.



This whole
planet is weird
... Look at those
"Migratory
Books"...



Everything is
inscribed here...
whether it's
something that
happened ten years
ago, or something
that happened
yesterday...



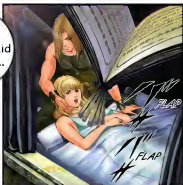
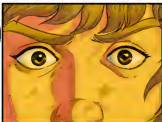
And here's yours...



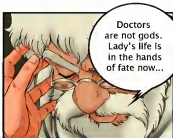
Look,
here's my
book...











Doctors
are not gods.
Lady's life is
in the hands
of fate now...



You told
me you were
the best
doctor in the
universe!



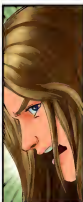
There is
one way
...!



Isn't there
any way to
save Lady?



There's no
point... she...
she wouldn't
want a body
like that.



We can fuse her
with "livemetal" ...
And generate a new
body for her while
retaining her
mind.





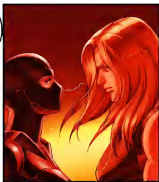




Are you...
happy with
your new
body?

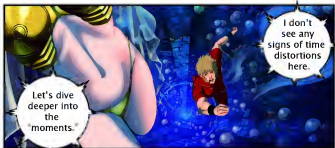


I don't mind it.
My waist size
hasn't changed.



Chapter 2
This beautiful body shows that...
What this new body
I have been given me left
as Lady Amelior
A new journey begins
Popular with the prince Cobbe
I will embark on a journey to
the far reaches of the universe
to be continued...









That's right.
That's where
I found
Lady...



Woah!



Is this
why Lady's
body is
vanishing?!



The "moments"
are getting
sucked in...!
What's
happening?!

RUMBLE



In a free dive,
the human body
can't handle any
more time
pressure
than that.

Wait, Cobra.
You can't go.
The maximum
depth of
a "Time Dive" is
20 years.



Cobraaaa!



That's okay.
I'll just set
a world record,
then.



Aaaahhhh!



Woah!







That castle...
That's where
I met Lady for
the first time!



Stop!
Let go of
me!



Guh!



Stop right
there! Where
are you taking
my sister?





No way! Who'd ever want to be enslaved to that monster?

Paloma, you are the beautiful songstress of Belula, here to charm great men from all around the nation. Gilos will surely take a liking to you.



If he were to hear such disrespectful words...



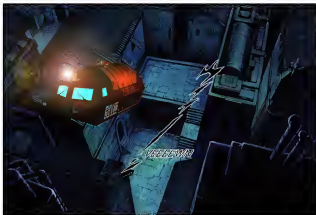
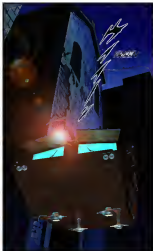
Shh! Gilos has sharp ears.

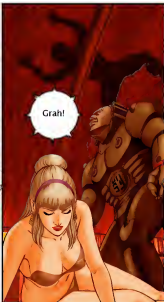


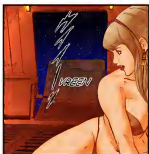
...he would cut your head off, along with those sweet lips of yours.



Hurry! We'll be late to the ceremony.

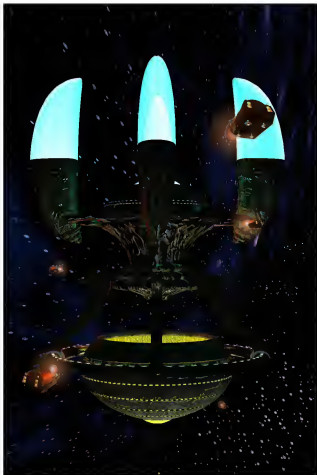


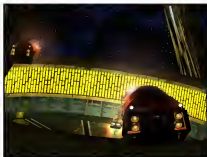














It's Paloma, right? Take this ship back to town.



Take him out with the trash.



Mmph...
Mmmhmp
...



What should I do with him, Joe?



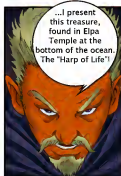
it's March
29th, 3012...
Exactly 20
years ago...

On this day,
I snuck into this
castle to score
some treasure...

...which
means there
will be two
of me here
tonight.



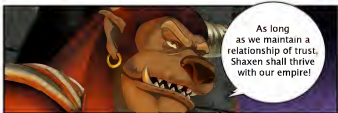
Next!
Lord Rome
of Shaxen!

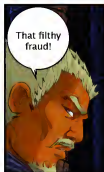
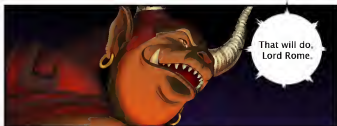


...I present
this treasure,
found in Elpa
Temple at the
bottom of the ocean.
The "Harp of Life"!



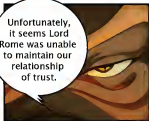
As a display
of loyalty to
the great
King Gilos...







Unfortunately,
it seems Lord
Rome was unable
to maintain our
relationship
of trust.



Ah...



I present
the "Word
of the Goddess"
which has been
handed down in
our house for
generations.



Next!
Count Kalman
of Emar!!

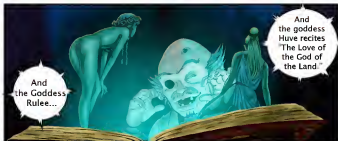




The goddess
Matra recites
"The Adventures
of the Hero
Edeces."



This book
creates goddesses
who recite poems
from the Age of
Gods written
by heroes.



And
the Goddess
Rulee...

And
the goddess
Huve recites
"The Love of
the Land."



Next!
Lord Aradora
of Zaxon.





He created
the dreadful
monsters in
this castle.



That's
Nuba...!
The
Magicologist
of the castle.

Who
is that
clown!?



That's Gilos'
bodyguard
Manidou.
He's a master
of the dark
blade.

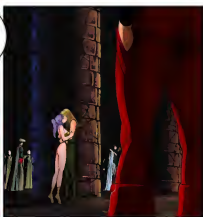


But the most
dangerous is
that man...



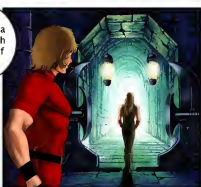
I'll catch up
with you later,
in your room.
Leila!

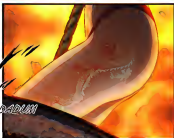
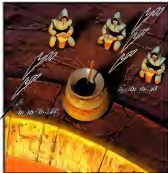
This is our chance.
While he's here,
I'll go and check
what kind of
security this
place has.

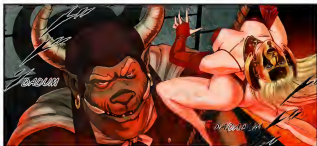


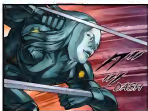
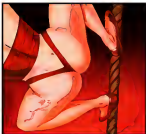


This is gonna be tricky with my past self around.

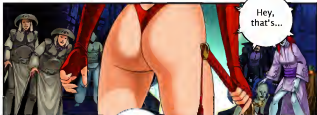








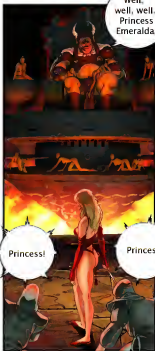




Hey,
that's...

Well,
well, well.
Princess
Emeralda.

It's the
princess
of Sunborn
Dukedom.



Princess!

Princess!



Lady!





Have you come to celebrate my rise to the throne, too?



You schemed your way to the throne, assassinating the king and the duke in the process. I do not acknowledge your reign.



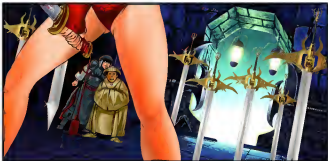
Gilos, the castle's fortune teller, a king! You shameless beast.

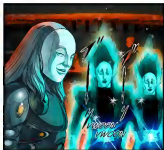


Keh heh heh... You really are your father's daughter. Duke Sunborn said the same thing.



And so he died.



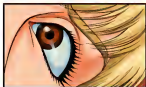


Charge!

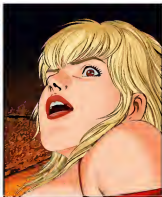


Go.















Take
her to your
laboratory.
Do as you
please with
her!

Gah
hah hah!
Thank you
Lord Gilosi!









Your faces are different, but your voice and your figure are exactly the same... Even the way you kiss...



I wouldn't have believed you if we hadn't kissed just now.



I take after our pops, and he after our mom.



This must be the secret passage that cuts into all the hallways.







She wouldn't believe me...



...if I told her I was Cobra from 20 years in the future.



Hah, his brother

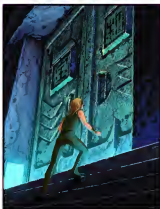
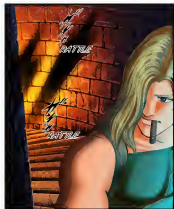
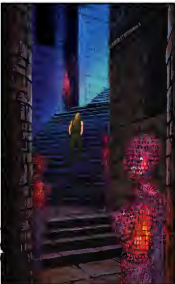


There are no guards inside the castle!?



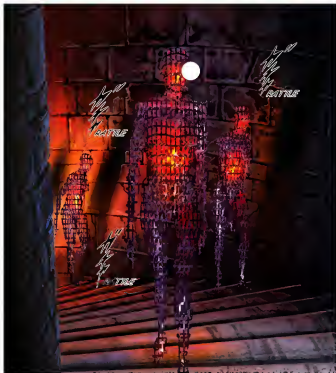
This is weird...!







What's that...?





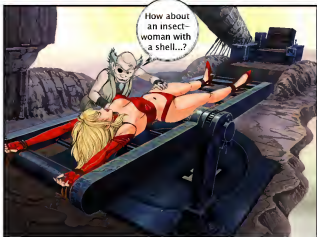
So
these are
the guards.



No wonder
nobody's
here.









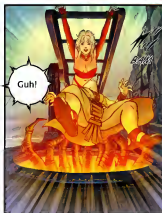
It is said that this jewel is a small black hole... and the sun inside it emits a beautiful glow...!



You'd stop what you're doing if you'd heard the legends.

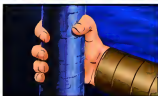




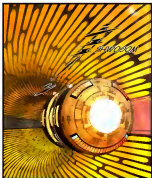


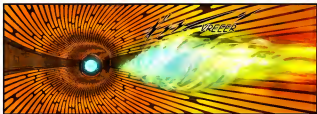
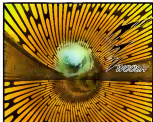


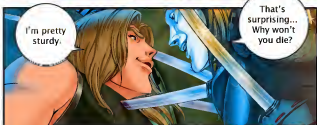






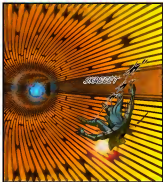
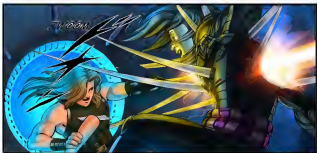


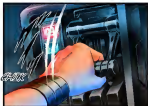




I'm pretty sturdy.

That's surprising...
Why won't you die?





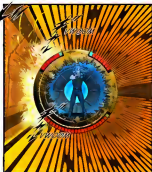
Look!
He's goin'
really fast!

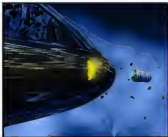


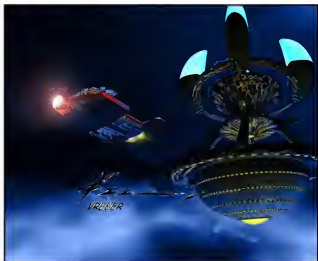
And he
changed
direction!

Damn.
He won't
stop!









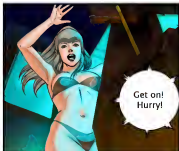




Chase him!
Don't let him
escape!



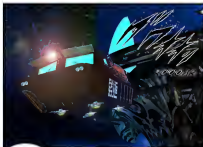




Get on!
Hurry!



Over here!



Didn't see
that coming.
It's Paloma.



But if I had
known you
were on a date,
I wouldn't
have waited.



What
were you
doing there,
Paloma?



I was
just worried
about you,
so I decided
to wait.





Manidou,
you're back!







Cobra...
from all
the rumors.
Cobra the
pirate!?

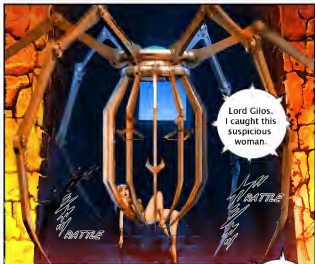


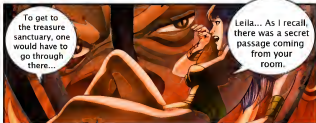
It was
Cobra.



Keh
heh heh...
Interesting...

He broke into
my castle to
steal some
treasure...?







Find him...
go and find
Cobra!



We must
kill the man
who sets his
sights on Gilos'
treasure!



L...Lord
Gilos...





Hoof, what happened to you, Nuba?



I... you should not see me like this...



Nuba...! What are you doing over there? Come out!



And then, he... made me like this...

Somebody came and took Princess Emeraldal from me...



No, sir.
If you mean the Cobra with the bounty on his head, I would have recognized him from the posters.
He's very handsome...

What...!?
The Princess... was it Cobra!?



I don't care
who he is!
Go and find
the Princess!



The princess
was taken by
a grinning man
with a big nose
and hanging
lips.



If she
survives, she'll
find new recruits
to oppose me!



All I gave
you was my
affection... and
this is how you
repay me?



Grrr...
And your
room leads to
the laboratory,
too!

Die!



...using
the girl.



Let's find
the Princess
and that
man...



Please
wait!



I'll deal with him myself.

Leave Cobra to me...

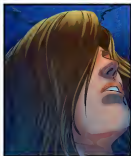


He's wounded...

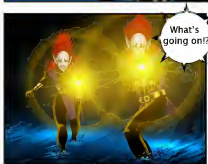


He won't get far...









What's going on!?



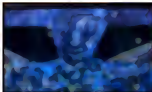
Retreat!
Retreat to
the aircar!

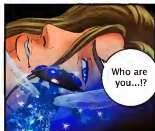
The water...
the water's
eating him!

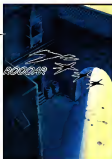














Good,
good,
you can
smell them.



Gah
hah hah!
Find them!



The castle's
guards are on
the hunt for
the princess.





The place is a bit shabby, but please hold out here for awhile.



When the people hear you are alive, they'll surely gather.

You are our peoples' hope! Many people in our town oppose Gilos' regime.



Thank you, sir. I'm afraid there's nothing I can do to return the favor...



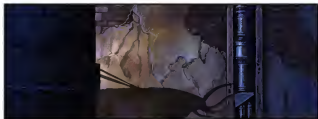
Well, I'll go cook something up downstairs.













What are you saying!? Outside is swarming with guards who are looking for you!



But I have to go... I need to meet a certain someone.



I'm leaving this place.

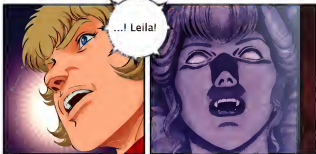
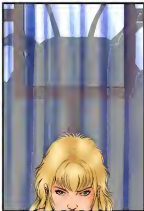


What are you doing?

...I have to see that someone.



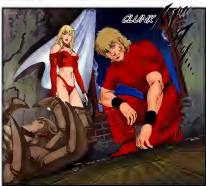
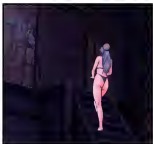
Gilos is invincible. In order to defeat him...

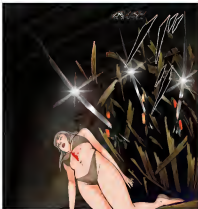






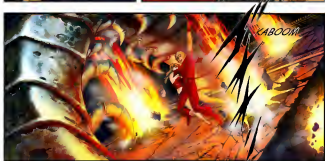


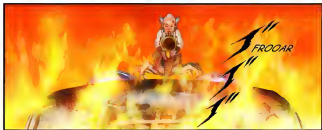


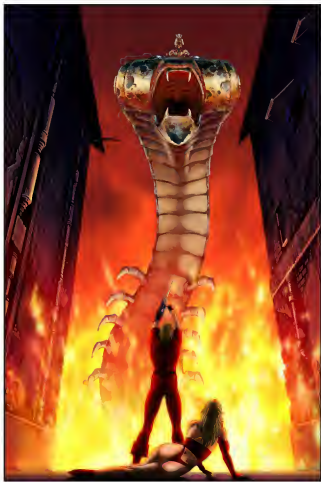


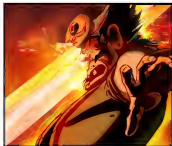


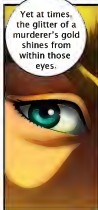
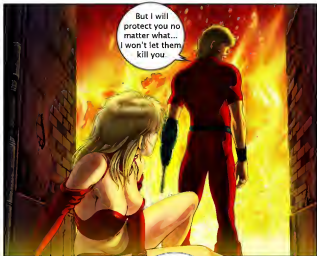






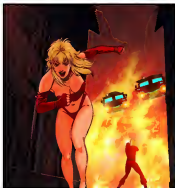








Go!
I'll deal
with this!
Just go!



You need
to go,
Lady!





Why do
I see my
destiny when
I look into
your eyes!?

Who are
you!?



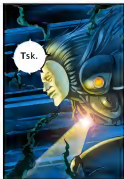
The man
who calls
me
"Lady"...



You're the
only one in
the universe
who can
protect me.









I thought
you died
back there.

Didn't
I make a big
hole in your
chest?



Keh
heh heh...
I thought
you'd be
here. Cobra
...



When my life
is in jeopardy,
it instantly
sends me
straight to
the castle.

Keh heh
heh... I have
homing
equipment
installed on
my body.



That
sounds useful.
Is it available
through mail
order?



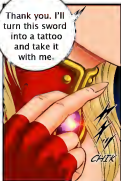
Plus, as
you can
see, it heals
my wounds
completely.

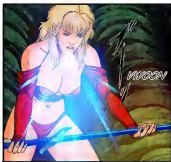


More
importantly,
what happened
to your wound...?







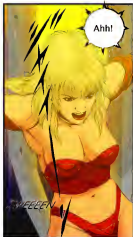


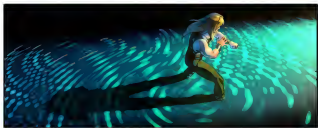
The
Black Hole
Diamond... Such
a mysterious
jewel...



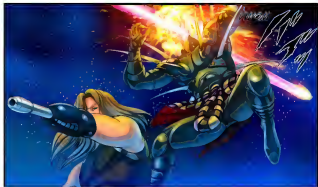
With that sword
and that jewel,
you should be
able to defeat
Gilos.











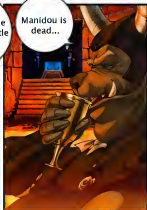


Can you still
be healed
with your head
blown off?



Psychogun
fire can
curve.



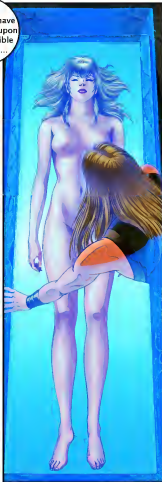
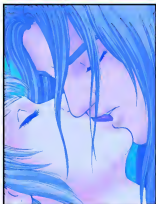








I seem to have
stumbled upon
an incredible
treasure...

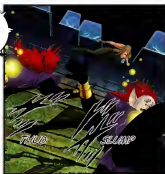








Don't
move,
Cobra.



...! Gilos!

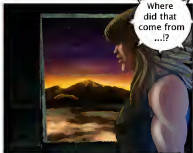
If you move,
I'll crush
this girl!



Gah hah
hah! Women
are your
weakness.







That day...
I felt there was
someone standing
on a mountain
far away...



That
someone...
was me.



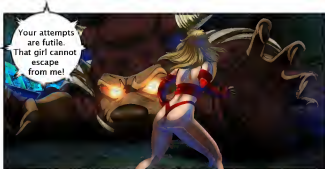


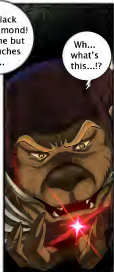
How do we escape, Cobra?

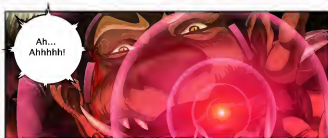


Here it comes.

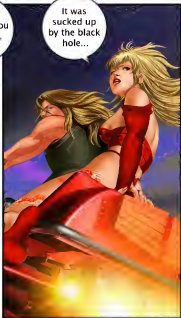
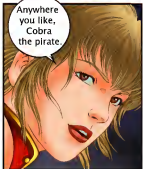


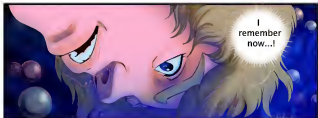






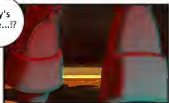








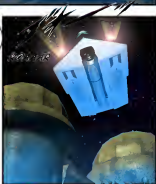


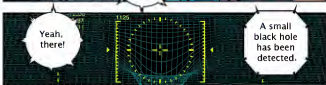
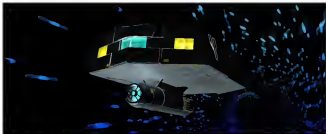


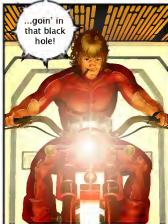


It's all right,
Cobra realized
everything...
inside that
time dome!

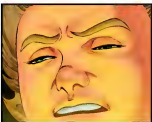
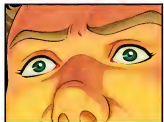
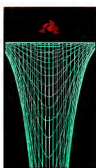
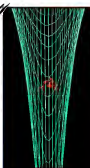
Gyah
gyah!



















...so he could return to the castle instantly, whenever he wanted...



Manidou was saying he had homing equipment installed...



This is the homing device. Your genes are locked in here.



The homing device worked right away and brought your body back...

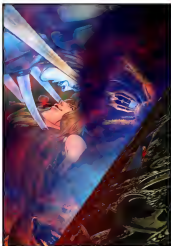
Gilos planted one on you, too... So that even if I steal you away from the castle... you'll come right back here.

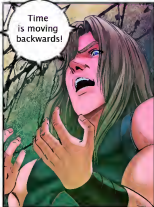
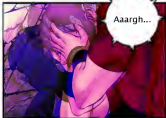


Because of that, time was distorted and it took 20 years for you to teleport back here.

But it was sucked up by that black hole.











Look over there!

But it hasn't been all fun and games for me.



20 years....!?!
So much time has passed in the outside world... Here, we have no concept of time, since it has stopped.



It's been finished for a long time now...

Yet, for some reason... the device would not work!



It's a time-escape device.



That
time... when
the black hole
was unleashed,
you and that girl
were here.

Do you
know why
...!?



...it is
impossible
to return to
our time!

Without
replicating
those
conditions...



The device is
now operating,
and will soon
take this castle
back to the past...
to its initial
position...

But now,
you've both
returned.



Sorry, but the
only place
you're going
back to...

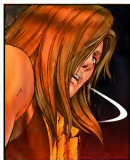




Have you forgotten that I am invincible?



Fool...









Cobraaaa!



Lady!







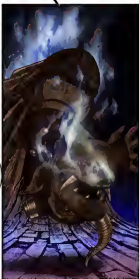
Cobraaaa!



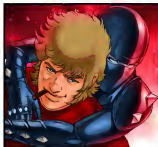
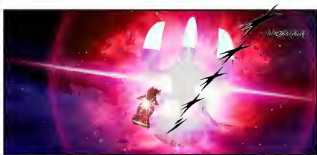
Gilos drew
his energy
from the
lava...



That was the
secret to his
invincibility.







COBRA: Time Drive

Author
Buichi Terasawa

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